

Message Text

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51

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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P 171200Z OCT 74

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8752

INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 6398

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, UN, AF, HU

SUBJ: REPORTED HUNGARIAN EFFORTS TO BUY POPPY STRAW IN AFGHANISTAN

1. WE HAVE LEARNED THAT FEW DAYS AGO UNDP RESREP KABUL REPORTED TO DND PRESENCE IN AFGHANISTAN OF HUNGARIAN COMMISSION TO PURCHASE POPPY STRAW. AFTER CONSULTATION WITH INCB SECRETARY DITTERT, DND SENT CABLE TO RESREP BORTHWICK STRONGLY URGING HIM TO ADVISE BOTH AFGHANS AND HUNGARIANS AGAINST PROCEEDING WITH SUCH TRANSACTION WHICH WOULD INEVITABLY LEAD TO DEEP INTERNATIONAL CONCERN.

2. MESSAGE TO RESREP POINTED OUT, INTER ALIA, THAT (A) AFGHAN LAW PROHIBITS CULTIVATION OF OPIUM POPPY FOR PRODUCTION OF OPIUM; (B) AFGHANISTAN IS PARTY TO SINGLE CONVENTION AND RESULT IN PROTEST FROM INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY; (C) AFGHANISTAN CAN PERMIT EXPORT OF UNICISED CAPSULES I.E., POPPY STRAW, ONLY IF CONTROL AND OTHER RELEVANT REQUIREMENTS OF SINGLE CONVENTION CAN BE MET AND PAST EXPERIENCE CONCEDED BY GOA SHOWS IMPOSSIBILITY OF APPLYING ADEQUATE CONTROL MEASURES AND THUS PREVENTING ILLICIT CULTIVATION OF POPPY FOR PRODUCTION OF OPIUM.

3. IN VIEW OF SERIOUS DANGER FOR DIVERSION INHERENT IN AFGHANISTAN'S GOING INTO POPPY STRAW EXPORT BUSINESS, MARTENS ALSO TRIED TO TELEPHONE HUNGARIAN CND REPRESENTATIVE BOLCZ TO SOLICIT HIS INTERVENTION WITH AUTHORITIES BUDAPEST BUT WAS ADVISED THAT BOLCZ HOSPITALIZED FOR CORONARY. BORTHWICK HAS BEEN REQUESTED REPORT
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ASAP OUTCOME HIS EFFORTS KABUL. WE ARE ADVISED THAT IN LIGHT

BORTHWICK'S REPORT, DND, IN CONSULTATION WITH INCB, WILL DECIDE
WHAT SHOULD BE DONE VIS-A-VIS HUNGARIAN AUTHORITIES TO SEEK
DISSUADE THEM FROM PURSUING EFFORTS BUY POPPY STRAW IN AFGHANISTAN.
HOWEVER, INTENTION APPARENTLY IS TO PURSUE MATTER VIGOROUSLY AND IF
NECESSARY TO SEND UN OFFICIAL TO BUDAPEST.

DALE

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